

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 21402 280741Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01
/059 W

-----117576 290444Z /20

R 280638Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8432
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: ASEAN, EGEN
SUBJ: US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL: FOOD POLICY

1. IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED ASEAN REGIONALLY COORDINATED
SYSTEM OF NATIONAL RESERVE FOR RICE WE SUBMIT THE FOLLOW-
ING OBSERVATIONS WHICH REFLECT THE THAI POINT OF VIEW.

2. ALTHOUGH THE PHILIPPINES HAVE JUST BECOME SELF-
SUFFICIENT IN RICE PRODUCTION, THAILAND IS THE ONLY RICE
EXPORTER IN ASEAN. THAILAND IS ALSO COORDINATOR FOR
ESTABLISHING THE FOOD SECURITY RESERVE WHICH INCLUDES RICE
AS ONE OF THE COMMODITIES. THE THAI ARE EMBARRASSED OVER
THE RICE SCHEME SINCE THE PRICE OF RICE IS IMPORTANT TO
THEM. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN IN SETTING ASIDE A
RESERVE OF RICE FOR THEIR ASEAN PARTNERS WHICH THEY WOULD
BE OBLIGED TO SELL BELOW THE MARKET PRICE OF RICE. IN
THE THAI VIEW, THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO A DONATION UNLESS
THEY RECEIVE A COMPENSATION FROM SOME OTHER QUARTER. THE
THAI ARE HOPING TO AVOID THIS DILEMMA THROUGH SOME DEVICE
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YET TO BE DECIDED.

3. ANOTHER ASPECT RELATING TO RTG POSITION IS THE ASIAN
RICE TRADE FUND (ARTF) ARISING FROM THE ESCAP COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT. ARTF WAS ESTABLISHED IN
1969 AND HAS NEVER BECOME OPERATIONAL. DURING THE LAST
SESSION OF THE ESCAP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

HELD IN BANGKOK, FEBRUARY 1978, THE THAI DELEGATE RE-COMMENDED THE SUBJECT BE DROPPED FROM FUTURE AGENDAS OF THE COMMITTEE. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT ANOTHER ATTEMPT BE MADE TO MAKE THE ARTF WORKABLE AT THE NEXT COMMITTEE SESSION IN 1979 OR EARLY 1980.

4. COMMENT. THE RTG HAS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THESE SCHEMES WHICH ARE OF NO BENEFIT TO THAILAND AND ARE LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION TO AVOID ILL FEELING AMONG THEIR ASEAN PARTNERS. O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: EGEN, US, ASEAN
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